





Metro/lews

The newsletter of the London Metropolitan Bridge Association

Spring 2019







Words from the Editor

In the last MetroNews issue the new LMBA Chairman wrote about the need for increasing our membership. I make no apology for returning to this theme, as it is vital to the future of bridge in London. Indeed it is vital to the future of bridge in the country, and the EBU has recently launched a national membership campaign in recognition of this.



This initiative has its own dedicated website – ebumemberdevelop.org.uk – which aims to provide information, guidance and resources to help clubs and counties to tackle building up their membership. Much of this guidance is based on the results of a pilot scheme run in Yorkshire which has proved very successful there. 20 out of of 34 clubs in Yorkshire took part in the membership campaign and 18 had good results.

There is no doubt that the best way of recruiting new members is through teaching, but this is not enough – there must also be a route through for new players to progress via gentle improver sessions and encouragement until they can be fully integrated into club duplicates. In Yorkshire, the county provided a central website for anyone wanting to learn bridge in the region and organised marketing and other support for clubs.

This all sounds great, but London has its own problems to contend with, including:

- The fact that in London we are in competition with all the surrounding counties. Many of the clubs which the non-bridge player might think of as being in London are actually members of Middlesex, Surrey or other counties, with their focus mainly outside of central London, making coordination more difficult.
- London clubs are also in competition with some large unaffiliated bridge clubs.
- Bridge in central London is more expensive than elsewhere, because of the higher costs of venues, travel, parking etc.
- In London we have only one affiliated club with its own premises (excluding the private, members-only clubs). The Young Chelsea BC is vital for the County, as it provides a venue for the county competitions and for League and KO matches.
- The standard of play at the one club with its own premises is very high, meaning that the gap to be bridged before a new player can join in is dauntingly large.

Given these facts, it is good news that the YCBC now has a new manager who is very much focussed on teaching (see London Club News on page 7). We sincerely hope that he is successful in his aim of bringing new players into the club and the London bridge scene generally. He can be assured of as much support from the County as we are able to provide.

MetroNews Editor Chris Duckworth

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LMBA results this season

Café Bridge Brook Green

The Café Bridge event held in Brook Green on 18th September was the opening event of the 2018/19 London bridge season. The charity supported this time was



The Honeypot Children's Charity, who have their headquarters in Brook Green close to the event HQ. Since 1996 Honeypot has been working to enhance the lives of young carers and vulnerable children aged 5 – 12 years old. They are the only charity in the UK to provide respite breaks and on-going outreach support throughout a child's formative years.

Honeypot gives young carers a break from demanding and stressful responsibilities at home and provides a safe, nurturing

environment where children at risk can develop their full potential.



Laura Gleeson from the charity came along to explain a little about Honeypot, and all agreed it was a very worthwhile cause, for whom we were pleased to raise a total of £1000.00.

On this occasion 42 pairs competed, playing in five venues in the area. The winners were Tony Verran and Peter Scotting with a massive 68.19% score. They are pictured right with Laura who presented their champagne prizes.

Grateful thanks go to the Lavender Bridge Club who once again loaned us the use of their bidding boxes, and to Victor Lesk who scored so efficiently using his BriAn app.



The leading pairs, all of whom managed scores over 60%, were:

1	Tony Verran & Peter Scotting	68.19 %
2	Julie Sherwood & Joan D'Olier	64.85
3	Ray Joosab & John Drummond	63.79
4	Camilla Hull & Jo Holdsworth-Hunt	63.47
5	Sati McKenzie & David Solomon	61.76

Mixed Pairs Championship

This year's Mixed Pairs Championship, which attracted an entry of 21 pairs, slightly down on the previous year, was played at the end of September at the YCBC.

The leading three pairs were:

1	Beata Ruminski & Stan Ruminski	60.56%
2	Andrew Clery & Maxine Etkin	57.59
3	Nathalie Shashou & Nick Sandqvist	57.41

Men's & Women's IMP Pairs

Once again this year, the two fields of men and women were merged during play to provide a better movement and more meaningful results.

The winners in each event were:

1 Soheila Munro & Norrie Buxton 72.25 IMPs (pictured right)

2 Simon Gass & Alan Scott 37.47 IMPs (pictured below)





The runners up came in third and fourth position and were:

- 3 Heather Bakhshi & Claire Robinson 30.78 IMPs
- 4 Dean Swallow & Carlos Dabezies 14.92 IMPs

Palmer Bayer Trophy

The "No Fear" Pairs for the Palmer Bayer Trophy was again held in early December this season. The entry was a little disappointing at only 13 pairs, but those who came along enjoyed a great afternoon's bridge.

The winner was once again this event's star supporter, Sam Oestereich, playing with another new partner Szabolcs Mikulas. This was Sam's sixth win in this event with his third different partner! They scored a convincing win with a score of 61.64%.

In second place were Anne East and Averil Blackadder on 59.55% - a second consecutive year in second place for Anne! Isabel Torres and Dennis Abele came third with 56.18%.



Szabolcs & Sam with the trophy

London News

LMBA Annual General Meeting

The 2018 AGM of the LMBA was held on Thursday 6th September at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. The draft minutes of the meeting can be found on the LMBA website at www.metronews.co.uk.

The 2019 AGM will be held on Thursday 5th September 2019 at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Further details and an agenda will be published in the next issue of MetroNews.

London members with EBU roles

At the EBU AGM in November David Burn was re-elected onto the EBU Selection Committee, Mike Bell was voted on to the same committee for the first time and Sarah Bell was elected on to the Laws & Ethics Committee.

London members already serving the EBU who continue to do so include Ian Payn, EBU Vice-Chairman, Heather Dhondy, Board member, David Bakhshi, Selection Committee member and David Burn, L&E Committee member.

Awards for London members

London members continue to shine in all manner of ways. At this year's AGM of the EBU, the playing achievements of two of our top players – Heather Dhondy and

+Andrew Robson – were recognised when they were given each given a Diamond Award for excellence and sustained success at international level.

Andrew Robson, OBE

Andrew Robson has been a key part of the England/Great Britain Open team for many years. During a successful international career he:

- has made 12 appearances for England and Great Britain in major international events
- was a winner of 1991 European Championships
- has made 3 appearances for Great Britain in major junior international events
- was a winner of 1989 World Youth Team Championships
- has made 5 appearances in the European Champions Cup
- has made 12 appearances in the Camrose Trophy
- has made 3 appearances in the Junior Camrose winning on all occasions

In addition, he has had 7 Gold Cup victories, 6 Premier League victories, 5 Spring Foursomes victories and 2 Crockfords Cup victories. What a list!

Heather Dhondy



Heather Dhondy has been an integral part of the England Women's team for over twenty years. During a consistently successful international career she:

- has made 28 appearances for England and Great Britain in major international events
- has been 5-times European Champion
- has twice been World Olympiad champion
- has won the World Mixed Teams and the European Open Mixed Teams, and has numerous silver and bronze medals from these events
- has made 17 Lady Milne trophy appearances, winning no less than 13 times
- has represented England in the Camrose Trophy

In addition, Heather has served the EBU in numerous capacities. She is a member of the EBU Board, and is currently Chairman of the Tournament Directors Development Group and the Laws and Ethics Committee, having formerly been Chairman of the Selection Committee.



Tollemache Cup

The London team in the Tollemache qualifier this year comprised Tom Townsend, Phil King, Brian Callaghan, Heather Dhondy, David Burn, Franklin To, Mike Bell, Sarah Bell, Stefano Tommasini, Kieran Dyke and NPC Ian Payn. The team started poorly in the qualifier in November last year, but stormed through the field to win their group a match clear of second place.

The same team (with Stelio di Bello replacing Kieran Dyke) will compete for the trophy in the final in February (in the future at the time of writing). They have a good chance of bringing the Cup home to London and we wish them luck.

Club News

WLGBC Move of premises.

After 18 years at The Victoria in Paddington, the West London Gay Bridge Club has moved to a new home at 19c Craven Road, Paddington, W2 3BP – the premises of TGRs Bridge Club.

They continue to meet on Monday evenings at 7.30 pm, but will enjoy improved facilities including more space, Bridgemates and duplicated boards with hand records.

More information can be found at www.wlgbc.co.uk.

WLGBC Spring Swiss Pairs.

The WLGBC will be holding its Spring Swiss Pairs in Pimlico, SW1V 3AA on Saturday 6th April from 1.30pm to 6.30pm. This is an EBU licenced event and Blue Points will be awarded. The entry fee is £20 per person, which includes tea and cakes, drinks afterwards and cash prizes.

Entries should be made to David King at davidking1712@gmail.com. More details are available at www.wlgbc.co.uk.

Young Chelsea Management

The YCBC Manager, Louisa Spawls, has resigned from this role due to personal

circumstances. The club is sad to see her go but is very pleased to announce that a new manager has been appointed to take over from the beginning of February.

He is James Thrower, a former junior international player who has been making his mark recently in the London area as a bridge professional. His particular interest is in bringing new players into the game through teaching and the YCBC looks forward to a bright future with him at the helm.



Young Chelsea Bridge Club events

The YCBC has a number of upcoming events at the club that are open to all.

The **Open Teams Challenge** is a Teams-of-four event played for the Hecht-Johansen Trophy and will be held over the weekend of 2nd - 3rd March. There will be a two-session multiple teams on Saturday starting at 11.00am followed by knockout finals on Sunday for the leading four teams.

A two-session multiple teams will be held for the remainder of the field on the Sunday, again starting at 11.00 am, with an option to play the one-day Sunday teams only. The entry fee is £50 per player (£60 non-members), or £20 (£25) a head for the Sunday teams only. There will be a substantial prize fund!

Register your entry by email to youngchelsea@btconnect.com or online at ycbc.co.uk/events.

Other forthcoming events are:

- Swiss Teams on Sunday 7th April
- Cross-Imped Half Marathon on Saturday 27th April
- Keith Loveys Individual and Summer Party on Saturday 6th July

In Memoriam

Liz Fraser, who died in September last year was of course better known as a highly accomplished film actress than as a bridge player. But she was an excellent player, whom I had the privilege of knowing as a friend and occasional bridge partner for over 40 years.

She played most recently at the Lavender Club in Battersea and at the



Hurlingham Club, but before then she was a regular at the Young Chelsea BC. Wherever she went, she was accompanied by her beloved basset hound – she had several over the years and they all had names beginning with B for Bassett!

Liz could be a difficult bridge partner at times - she was fiercely competitive! - but she was a loyal friend who devoted much of her time and energy to charity work. She is greatly missed.

We are sad to report the loss of **Peter Blumer** who died suddenly last August. Whilst not a top player, Peter was a stalwart of Putney Bridge Club for many years, playing regularly from almost its beginning but also representing the club with credit in many outside competitions, including the London League. Latterly he also enjoyed supporting Café Bridge events and he was a popular player who is much missed.

New members

The LMBA is very pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined the EBU through the London County during the latter half of 2018:

Keith Baker Tanith Foster Lorinda Muller Stefan Nadaraian Carmel Bamford Daniel Goldsmith John Bergin William Hammond Tinamay Ogilvie-Suzanne Bishop Alistair Hogg Graham Steven Paull Andrew Black Ann Ingel Gabi Johnson Carol Budd Sy Salim Derek Crampsie Afsaneh Koohestani John Shuffrey Fiona Curzon Julia Ladds Ingrid Torjesen Yasemin Turker Sandra Dangoor Alice Le Mesurier **Evelyn Estcourt** Carol Lea-Robbins Vicky an Thiel Nicholas Fennell Linda Wilkinson Faye Lucas Sacha Fennell Moeen Mahmood Jeremy Wright Azar Mortazavi Max Fleming

We also welcome the following existing EBU members who have transferred their allegiance to London, or past members who have rejoined, during the last 6 months:

Carol Collins Jack Hagger Anne Rouach
Anthony Colton Sudha Jog Ammy Seth
David Cope Nicolas Leprovost Waldemar Topolnicki

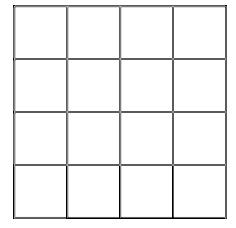
Sue Edwards Leon Levy Laura Tuckey
Geoff Ellis Paul Nicholas Mr M Wood
Irving Gordon Mr M Rathjen

Puzzle Corner

Can you place three ♠, three ♥, three ◆ and three ♣ symbols in the square grid, along with four NT symbols, such that no two similar symbols are in line vertically, horizontally or diagonally.

A solution is given on page 28.





Forthcoming competitions

Unless otherwise indicated, all competitions are played with permitted conventions at EBU Level 4. Membership requirements are specified in each competition description. **Details of how to enter events and make entry payments are at the end of this section**.

London Championship Pairs

Sunday 17th March 2019 starting at 11.30 am

Holders: Nathalie Shashou & Nick Sandqvist

Venue: Young Chelsea Bridge Club. 54 Goldhawk Road, London

W12 8HA

This competition is a one-day, two session, match-pointed pairs. Please note the early start time which will be combined with a short break between sessions to allow an early evening finish time.

The top fourteen pairs from the first session will compete in an all-play-all final with carry-forward scores whilst the remainder of the field competes in a consolation final. This major County Pairs Championship is green-pointed and is the qualifying event for the Corwen Trophy, the national inter-county pairs championship.

All players must be LMBA members, but only the leading four pairs with London as their county of allegiance (before playing in the event) will be eligible to represent London playing in the Corwen Trophy on $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ June 2019 in Daventry.

Entry fee: £36.00 per pair.

Advance entry is not essential but is strongly recommended. Entries should be made to **Imbaentries@gmail.com**, putting "Champ Pairs" in the subject line.

Garden Cities Heat

Thursday 21st March 2019 starting at 7.00 pm

Holders: Young Chelsea BC

Venue: Young Chelsea Bridge Club. 54 Goldhawk Road, London W12 8HA

The Garden Cities is the national teams-of-eight championship for EBU affiliated clubs. The winner of London's single-session qualifying heat will be eligible to play in the South-East Regional Final that takes place in Richmond on Saturday 27^{tht} April 2019 and, if successful there, in the National Final that takes place on Saturday 15th June 2019 in Solihull. Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish, subject to space restrictions at the venue. (The LMBA reserves the right, if necessary, to restrict the number of teams per club).



Clubs must be members of the LMBA. Players must be members of the EBU and of the club they represent but do not have to be LMBA members. It is not necessary for the same eight players to represent a team at each stage of the competition but no player may play for more than one club.

Entry fee: £80 per team

Advance entry is required and should be made by 14th March 2019 to Chris

Duckworth at christinejduckworth@gmail.com or on 020 7385 3534.

Fox Shammon Trophy

Sunday 31st March 2019 starting at 2.00pm

Holders: Konrad Mau & John Gibbons

Venue: Young Chelsea Bridge Club. 54 Goldhawk Road,

London W12 8HA

This is a single extended session match-pointed pairs event for senior players. All participants must have been born in or before 1958 and must be EBU members.

The event is expected to finish at 6.30-7.00pm.

Entry fee: £26.00 per pair

Advance entry is strongly advised and should be sent to arrive no later than 24th March 2019 to lmbaentries@gmail.com putting "Fox Shammon" in the subject line.

Enquiries may be made to **David Muller** on 07847 618105.



Tuesday 14th May 2019 starting at 10.30 for 11.00 am

Holders: Paul & Sally Found

Venue: The Alma Tavern, 499 Old York Road, SW18 1TF (for registration)

Our Spring Café Bridge Drive will once again be held in the Tonsleys, the area close to Wandsworth Town station.

For those not familiar with the idea of café bridge, the duplicate bridge tournament is played during the day in a number of different cafés/bars/restaurants in the area, each round of the tournament being played in a different venue.





This event will be held in aid of Save the Children via the Mary Portas Living and Giving shop in the Old York Road.

All are welcome – EBU membership is not necessary.



Entry Fee: £30.00 per player, which includes lunch at whichever venue you find yourself in at lunchtime!

Advance entry is essential and entries should be sent to **Imbaentries@gmail.com** to arrive no later than 7th May 2019, putting "Café Bridge" in the subject line. Please note that Café Bridge events are very popular and numbers are restricted – entries will be accepted strictly on a first-come first-served basis.

Any queries may be directed to **Chris Duckworth** on 020 7385 3534.

London Congress

incorporating

the twenty-fifth Green-Pointed One-Day Swiss Weekend

Saturday - Sunday 13th - 14th July 2019

Swiss Pairs Holders: *John Atthey & Mike Pownell*Swiss Teams Holders: *Claire Robinson, Martin Jones, John Atthey, Mike Pownell*

Venue: Young Chelsea Bridge Club. 54 Goldhawk Road, London W12 8HA

The London Congress continues the tradition of the LMBA Green-Pointed Swiss Weekends. The Swiss Pairs and the Swiss Teams will be single-flighted, with green points awarded in accordance with EBU regulations. Cash prizes will be given for the leading players in both events. All players must be EBU members, but LMBA membership is not required.

Programme:

Saturday 13th July: **Swiss Pairs** starting at 1.00pm. Two sessions with a one-hour interval, finishing at approx. 9.00pm

Sunday 14th July: **Swiss Teams** starting at 11.30 am

Two sessions with a short interval, finishing at approx. 7.15 pm





Entry fee: £25 per person per event. A reduced fee of £48 per person is available to anyone playing in both events over the weekend. Half price for Under-25s in all events.

Advance entry is essential as numbers are limited, and should be made to **Steve Eginton** at steve@eginton.co.uk or 07989 557779 or The Kukris, High Street, Bray SL6 2AH.

Pairs wishing to play in the Swiss Teams are invited to request entry, giving their EBU master point rankings or NGS grades. Every effort will then be made to pair them up with suitable team-mates.

Competition Information & Regulations

Membership requirements for each competition are specified in the description for each event. Where LMBA membership is required, players who are EBU members of counties other than London or are direct EBU members will be deemed to be dual members of London, but no additional payment is now required.

Where EBU membership is required, those who are not members of other counties or are not direct EBU members may join by paying the EBU/LMBA subscription fee, which is £31 this year. This may be paid to the LMBA along with competition entry fees, making sure that full contact details for the individual are provided, including an email address and postal address.

Seating policy. Players may be allocated a starting position by the TD on arrival at a venue, or may be required to draw a starting position or cut for North-South. Players who need a stationary position for medical or mobility reasons should if possible notify the organiser in advance.

Competition regulations. The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (2017) apply to all competitions as do, where appropriate, the regulations and directives of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee. Full LMBA competition rules for individual events may be found on the LMBA website at www.metrobridge.co.uk.

Payment of entry fees

Payment on the day is generally acceptable for most competitions, but pre-payment is necessary for the Café Bridge and London Congress events, both to avoid excessive registration times and because numbers are limited.

Payments may be by cash, by cheque made payable to LMBA, or by bank transfer. Debit and credit card payments are not possible.

Electronic transfer of funds should be made to the following LMBA account:

Sort Code: 09-06-66 Account No: 41838562 (Use your surname as a reference)

Junior bridge

The LMBA is not currently organising any bridge events specifically for juniors, but half price entry if offered to all juniors in all events. There are also other opportunities for youth bridge in the London area. These include:



Wimbledon BC is running free junior bridge and MiniBridge sessions every Sunday afternoon during the Spring term. They take place from 4.00pm to 6.00pm and all standards from beginners upwards are welcome. Visit their website at www.bridgewebs.com/wimbledon for more details and to sign up to attend.

The Surrey Bridge Association **Surrey Schools Cup** is an annual competition which continues to grow in popularity. This year it will be held on Friday 1st February at the Roehampton Club It comprises three separate events – the Schools Cup for experienced teams of four, the Schools Salver for teams of four who are new to full bridge and a MiniBridge Pairs competition. It is free to enter and is open to open to all schools from Surrey and surrounding areas. Contact <u>Tim Warren</u> or on 01276 857166 for more details.

If you are too late for this year, then how about the *EBED Young Bridge Challenge* & *Schools Cup* on 6th March which is at Loughborough Grammar School. Teams with all four players from one school participate in the Schools Cup & Schools Plate and other teams from a mixture of schools compete for the Harry Scully Trophy. Contact David Emerson at EBED — david@ebedcio.org.uk — for more details.

Finally, don't forget that juniors play completely free in the regular duplicates at the **Young Chelsea BC** – 7.00pm on Mondays & Thursdays, 7.30pm on Fridays.

Rough operator

The Lady Milne pre-trial was held at the Young Chelsea in early January. I had intended to go along as a member of the selection committee to sit in the bar and observe the results coming in on the EBU web page – trials are like the Eurovision Song Contest in that you don't actually want to watch the performances, merely the scores. But they were short of someone to operate the Bridge Base Online broadcast, so I volunteered.

by David Burn



The two leading pairs met each other on my first set of eight boards, which generated a few tricky problems for the player in the West seat. Scoring is by IMPs across a field of eight tables – in effect you have seven pairs of team-mates.

You, West, hold at love all

▲108 ♥98763 **♦**AQJ965 **♣**-

LHO deals and passes, partner opens 1NT (15-17), RHO passes. What is your bidding plan?

At my table West bid 2♦ as a transfer to hearts, then over partner's 2♥ bid 3♦ as a game force with both red suits, then passed partner's 3NT. Partner had

♦K96 **♥**AQ **♦**72 **♣**AJ9432

- the kind of thing that passes for a strong no trump just about everywhere nowadays. The defenders attacked spades at trick one, so ♠K was a winner to go with two aces and six diamonds when ♠K84 were onside (another trick appeared in the wash). No one else got near this result – two East-West pairs tried 5♠, one 4♥ and one 2♠, none of which made. Two more made part scores in red suits, and 430 was worth 9.29 IMPs to East-West.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

West then picked up at favourable vulnerability

♠72 **♥**K6 **♦**A2 **♣**AKJ10984

She opened 1♣ after two passes, LHO passed, partner bid 1♥ and RHO overcalled 2♦. What is your bidding plan?

Some pairs in this kind of position use 2NT as an artificial call to distinguish between a full-value 3♣ – a hand that would have made a jump rebid if South had passed – and a merely competitive hand that would have rebid 2♣ but is prepared to stretch to three. I don't know whether West had this in the armoury, but she bid 3♣ anyway (another possibility was a jump to 3NT, I suppose). Partner bid 3♥ and West raised to four – since partner hadn't

opened a weak 2♥, there was a strong inference that she had four spades so that the minor-suit losers would be taken care of, and if the defence led trumps to prevent spade ruffs in the dummy the clubs could be established while ◆A remained on the table. That was good thinking, and proved correct thinking facing

♦J863 **♥**AQ19874 **♦**853 **♣**–

One East-West pair attempted 6♥, one went down in four, but everyone else made a game and 450 was worth 3.57 IMPs to East-West.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

So far North-South had lost quite a lot of ground without being able to do much about it, but they had a chance on the third board when their hands were

North		South		
★ KQ10864		♦ A532) -	
♥ Q9		v 6		
1094		♦ AKJ832		
♣ A10		♣ 87		
West	North	East	South	
			1 ♦	
Pass	1♠	Dble	3♠	
4♥ 4♠		All Pass		

Was this a good slam? The diamond suit would be a slight favourite to produce six tricks without any opposition bidding, but the odds changed when East shows length in hearts and clubs. Her shortage was in spades, though, and diamonds divided 2-2 so everyone took twelve tricks on a top heart lead.

One North-South pair bid slam, so missing it was another blow to North-South as it cost them 3.14 IMPs.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

East-West then had at game all

West	East	
▲ AK64	♠ QJ32	
♥ AJ87	y 964	
♦ K984	♦ J103	
♣ 8	♣ A109	

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1♠	2♣
3♠	All Pass	3	

East gave this a lot of thought, and when she saw the dummy she might have been pleased with her decision; even for a vulnerable game at IMPs 4♠ is a rotten contract. But the cards were as kind as they could be to declarer – South had

- not everyone's overcall, but even a club lead could not prevent ten tricks. No fewer than four East-West pairs bid this game, so losing only 200 was worth 6.29 IMPs to North-South.

When you're operating on BBO you try to get ahead of the game by keying in obvious calls and plays before they're actually made, so that you have time to adjust if something happens that you can't see immediately. So it was that when West held

at favourable vulnerability, I was ready for her 1NT bid whether South in front of her passed or opened a light 1♥. South did the latter and I had to hit the Undo button when West passed instead of overcalling. North bid 2♥ which came back to West who didn't really have anywhere to go now, so she settled for defending. A signalling muddle resulted in down one instead of down two, but East had

and with diamonds coming in every other East-West pair in the field scored four hundred and something in 3NT. That gave 8 IMPs to North-South, and more or less evened up the match.

Next for West at unfavourable vulnerability came

Pass from partner, one maybe-short club to the right. She passed, North bid 1♥, partner 1♠, and RHO passed (typically a weak no trump with a doubleton heart). West contributed 1NT, passed around to South who bid 2♠ to show that her clubs were maybe not all that short. What call do you make?

A sharp penalty double would have produced 300 and about 3.5 IMPs in the plus column. West's actual pass produced 100 and a loss of 1.29 IMPs – every East-West went plus on a friendly distribution that meant they could actually make game. Though no one bid it, they took a lot of overtricks in part scores.

What I thought would be the flattest board of the event followed when West held at game all

and did not overcall when her RHO opened 1♠. This was raised to 4♠, a contract that needed the club finesse (which worked) and to avoid a ruff in hearts (which were 3-3). But everyone bid it and everyone made it – apart from one table, where the West player did overcall. She found her partner with

♠6 **♥**K76 **♦**QJ75 **♣**98543

and when North-South reached 4♠ East-West carried on to 5♠. That would have required a good guess to get out for -800, but North-South barrelled on to 5♠ where they went down one and spoiled a beautiful row of 620s to North-South. It gave East-West at my table an undeserved loss of 1.71 IMPs and ushered in the final board.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

South held at love all

♦KJ64 **♥**4 **♦**KQ10543 **♣**87

Pass from LHO and partner, one maybe-short club on your right. What call do you make?

South opted for pre-emption and overcalled 2 •, but the effect of that was to silence her partner when this was the full deal

- AQ1095▼ 10986◆ 72
- **♣** 64
- ♠ 873♥ KQ75
- **•** 96
- **♠** 2 **♥** AJ32
 - AJ8
- **♣** KJ52 **♣** AQ1093
 - **★** KJ64
 - **y** 4
 - ◆ KQ10543
 - **\$** 87

WestNorthEastSouthPassPass1♣2♦DblePass4♥All Pass

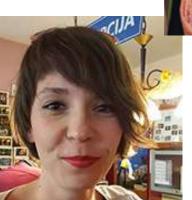
North didn't feel like introducing her spades on this auction, and I don't

blame her, but her pair missed a paying sacrifice as a result.

Mind you, East had bid hearts first at this table so if East-West had pushed on to the five level they could have made it by ducking the opening lead of ◆K (as happened at one table). At a couple of other tables where South had overcalled at the one level, West bid 1 ♥ and North bid 1 ♠. The pairs who were pushed to 5 ♥ after that received a diamond lead from North, and that defeated the contract. Two other pairs were allowed to play is 4 ♠, one doubled and the other not, while the 420 that East claimed at trick one at my table won 5.14 IMPs for her side.

That gave Diana Nettleton (right), the beleaquered West, and her partner

Marusa Gold (below) a narrow win in the match and kept her partnership on course for a convincing win in the trial.



Olivia Bailey and Liz Gahan, North-South for this set, finished in an excellent third place for a pair still in

the Junior ranks.

The final trial is due at the beginning of February. I have reserved my seat in the bar.

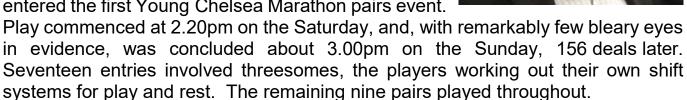
Young Chelsea Marathon 1973

by Mahmoud Sadek

Finding myself a little short of current copy for this issue of MetroNews, I decided to re-cycle this article written in April 1974 about the first Young Chelsea Marathon, held the previous December, with the kind permission of the author. The picture of Mahmoud, right, is rather more recent than 1974!

As you read, remember that bidding has evolved considerably over the last 45 years! Ed.

Lured by a £60 first prize, 69 enthusiasts (or maniacs) entered the first Young Chelsea Marathon pairs event.



Several words of praise should be extended to Warwick and the various helpers and scorers whose efforts made the event run extremely smoothly, especially considering that there were never less than 60 people in the club during the entire time.

Now to the play. First, the only grand slam in the entire competition:

Game all, Dealer South

♦ J8762

y 543

♦ 3

4 10952

♦ Q53

♠ A

y 6

AKQ

AKQ10986

♦ J752

♣ A6

♣ QJ874

★ K1094

♥ J109872

4

♣ K3

South passed, and West (Roger Edmonds) called 2. Imagine East's feelings! I quietly called 3. Then the fun started. David Sherman called 3. on the South cards, and West bid 4. Clearly all finesse had to be abandoned so I bid 4NT

(Roman Blackwood) and before receiving the appropriate two-ace response, South blistered the air with 5♥.

West bid 5♠, which I took to show two aces on the basis that double would show one and I bid 7♦ hopefully awaiting a 7♥ call (worth a 2300 penalty) which alas never came. There were no problems in the play. One pair called 7NT, possibly over 7♥, and found the ♠K well placed for a complete top.

At the end of the first session, the leaders were Tim Bolshaw & John Atkin on 392, J. Smith & Jeremy Dhondy on 382, and Dick Shek & Richard O'Reilly on 380.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

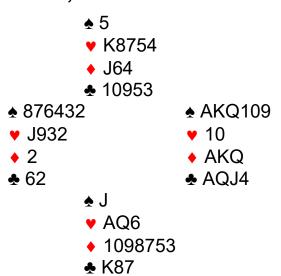
The second session was quite tough, we found, with few presents coming our way. Terry Roberts & Tony Judge had no such problems and finished with

over 68%, easily the best session of all. It brought them from nowhere to second place on 735. Tim Bolshaw & John Atkin still led with 737. Frank & Kathy To moved up to third on 726.

The third set started poorly for us. Then after ten boards, Colin Simpson, hot from the theatre, and Bill Maddock, hot from a bar, turned up to kibitz, and our fortunes changed dramatically for the better.

This was one of the deals they watched:

NS Vul, Dealer South



After three passes, East opened a strong 1♣. South (Roger) bid 1♠. West and North both passed and after a long trance East also passed! (Surely one of the biggest "no bids" ever.) 1♠ was duly made for +70 with 6♠ bid and made seven times. It was not a top however. One East played in 4♥ down three when, one can only assume, his partner passed out a cue-bid.

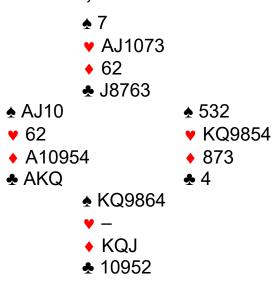
Frank To & Mel Sears moved into the lead with 1116, followed by Terry Roberts & Tony Judge on 1069, and Dick Shek & Richard O'Reilly on 1062. This was easily our best set to date and we moved into fourth spot with 1044.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

At this point, Colin Simpson took over from Roger in this healthy position, comfortably tucked in behind the leaders, although half the field were still in the running.

Very early on in the fourth set, this monstrosity occurred. We scored a bottom, but it was worth untold matchpoints over the remaining sessions.

Game All, Dealer East



After one pass, I opened, as South, with 1♠. No one should quibble with that at pairs. West called 2♦ and East 2♥. This was passed to North who doubled. South not unnaturally took out to 24, doubled by West. North now called 2NT (ugh!) which was also doubled. This went for 1100. North lost a trick in the play, or else we would have scored two matchpoints. 2♥ doubled plus one 870. South, would have cost uncharacteristically, said very except to point out that these tactics unnecessary. Dissent were controversy in a marathon must be avoided. That, and keeping to a simple system, are perhaps the two basic essentials of extended pairs play to minimise fatigue.

Near the end of the session, this deal came up:

EW Vul, Dealer East

♣ 854♥ A97◆ 9873♣ 976

♠ AK62
♠ 107
♥ 63
♠ K4
♠ AQJ4
♠ K8532

♣ QJ93♥ KJ1052

• Q52

♣ 10

After two passes, I opened 1♣ with the West cards. This was raised to 3♣ (a slight push) and on the "simple system principle", I called 6♣. (I was not alone in this contract!) Anyway, ♦9 was led to the ♦J, Q, and K. Trumps were drawn and South discarded a diamond and a spade.

5.00am Sunday morning is my only excuse for failing to spot that spade discard. The contract, of course, can now be made by establishing the ♠2 for a heart discard. I had a fixation about getting four diamond tricks, and eventually went one off.

Terry Roberts & Tony Judge were now leading on 1449, followed by Richard O'Reilly & Chris Duckworth on 1427 and Malcolm Landau & Mrs Charlie Esterson on 1424 (in the top three for the only time; they were never to drop below fifth).

♣ ♥ ♦

The fifth set was, for us, as smooth as the second set was tough, although we could not touch Martin Hoffman and John Peirson who banged in more than 65%. Martin was his usual brilliant self, playing the cards with machine-gun rapidity, and complaining cheerfully that his team-mates had left him too much to

do in pulling up from twelve tops to "only" eight tops behind. Despite Martin's blitzkrieg, Terry Roberts & Tony Judge still led with 1788, Sadek & Simpson 1761, and the To's on 1734.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

Now the last lap got under way at about 11.30am, all set for an exciting finish. There had not been much for squeeze addicts but the following deal at the start of the last set changed that (at least for us):

NS Vul, Dealer East

♦ 985
♥ Q854
♦ AK985
♦ 5
♦ J7
♦ K10632
♥ 1062
♦ J643
♦ 10
♠ AJ87

AQ4
✓ KJ7

• Q72

♣ KQ109

South played in 3NT and received the •3 lead. Dummy took the ace and led a heart, taken by West, who returned a heart. After the third heart, a club was led to the king, which held. Dummy was re-entered and all the red suit winners played out. East was caught in a club-spade squeeze and declarer made twelve tricks. (Not top, however. as one pair played 3NT doubled.)

An amusing incident occurred on deal 12 in this set. It had not been redealt from the third session. Colin Simpson picked up a 16-pointer with two queen-doubletons. Lisa Christie opened 1♥, Colin called INT (ugh, yet again!) and Tim Cope doubled. I futilely

called 2♣, doubled. When dummy went down, Tim astonishingly remembered the hand from some 12 hours back. Not surprisingly the previous five tables had not recalled it. Thankfully the board was declared void and our scheduled −500 or −800 never materialised.

This was our scrappiest and least satisfying set of boards, and I thought

we would be a top above average only. During play we heard rumours that the Chinese (Dick Shek, and Frank & Kathy To) were doing well, and that Terry Roberts was faltering. At the end we resigned ourselves to third or fourth place.

But when all the smoke had cleared the final result was as follows:

1st	Roger Edmonds, Colin Simpson, Mahmoud Sadek	2123
2nd	Frank & Kathy To, Mel Sears	2094
3rd	Dick Shek, Richard O'Reilly, Chris Duckworth	2066
4th=	Malcolm Landau, Charlie Esterson	2065
4th=	Terry Roberts, Tony Judge	2065



Readers may be interested in knowing what has happened to some of the characters mentioned in the article above. Many have gone on to great things in the bridge world, many are still frequenting the bridge tables, though unfortunately a few are no longer with us.

- ♠ Mahmoud Sadek is, of course, still going strong and plays regularly at the Young Chelsea and at the Lavender Club.
- ♥ Colin Simpson sadly died a year ago after a glittering career at the bridge table,
- Roger Edmonds continues to play bridge at a high level, based in Herts.
- ♣ Kathy To was Frank To's first wife. After they split up, she returned to Hong Kong and, as far as I know, did not continue to play serious bridge although she was a fine player. Frank continues to play at a high standard he is a member of the current London Tollemache team and he also organises the weekly Nippon Club duplicate sessions.
- ♠ Dick Shek used to manage a bridge club in North London but a few years ago he re-located to Malaysia, for whom he played in last year's Commonwealth Nations Cup.
- Richard O'Reilly died of cancer at a tragically young age.
- ◆ Chris Duckworth is alive and well. He was my first husband (no it wasn't me in the article!) and he gave up bridge completely, sacrificing a very promising bridge career (he played for Britain back in the 1980s), after he re-married a non-bridge player.
- A Charlie (or Charley) Esterson died some years ago after a bridge career that peaked with a silver medal in the 1976 Venice Cup playing for Great Britain.

- ♠ Tim Cope emigrated to South Africa, for which country he played internationally for many years.
- ▼ Henry and Lisa Christie emigrated to Australia in 1980 where they live in Perth. Henry was playing for the Australian seniors team until very recently, some of the time in partnership with Ron Klinger.
- Tony Judge died in 2015 after playing top-level county bridge for many years.
- ♣ Jeremy Dhondy is the current Chairman of the EBU.
- ♠ Martin Hoffman died last year after a hugely successful bridge career.
- ♥ David Sherman continues to play bridge at a high level, based in Essex.

I'm afraid I don't know what has happened to the others mentioned. Ed.

Third Hand High, I

On a recent bridge and walking holiday I was on lead against the straightforward auction 2NT-3NT. There isn't much to be inferred from such an auction, other than that responder is not particularly interested (or, can't be bothered) in finding a major-suit fit. This may be that there are sufficient values to make 3NT an attractive possibility, or that responder does not have a four-card major.

Well, if responder doesn't have a fourcard major, maybe partner has. Maybe he fits our major, or has the other one. So, against this quantitative type of auction, major-suit leads tend to be popular.

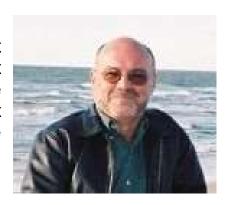
My hand was:

- **↑** 72
- **9**4
- Q9754
- **♣** J832

The "normal" lead would be the diamond five, if playing fourth-highest. However, dummy had to have at least one minor, so I thought I'd try a majorsuit lead. For no particular reason, I led the heart nine.

This is what I saw:

by Mike Graham



- **♦ J8**
- **♥** J875
- KJ103
- ♣ Q109

So much for the theory that dummy would not have a major, I thought. However, there is a school of thought that says combined 28-30 counts should play in 3NT regardless, on the basis that there are so many high cards that nine tricks would normally be available, and that in 3NT you cannot suffer from a defensive cross-ruff or bad trump break.

Anyway, the first trick went nine, five, queen, ace. Declarer led a diamond to the ten, winning, and then led the ten of clubs, running it to my jack. It didn't seem as if anything was going to

matter, so I led the heart four; seven, ten, king. It looked like the 2NT opener had five hearts, so our side had to hope that 3NT would make one less trick than the number available in hearts. However, this was the full hand:

Game all, Dealer South

♦ J8 **♥** J875 ♦ KJ103 ♣ Q109 **★** 72 ★ K9643 **Q**10632 **9**4 • Q9754 **2** ♣ A5 **♣** J832 **▲** AQ105 AK ♦ A86 ♣ K764

Interesting. The nine of hearts was led. East can see the queen down to the five. If partner has led a singleton, declarer has AK4. If a doubleton, AK tight. Either way, it is safe to play a low card. In the bar later, I asked my partner, a sprightly lady who was busy celebrating her eighty-second birthday, why she had played the queen. She gave me a somewhat puzzled look. "It's the right card", she said. "Third hand high." I didn't bother asking about the heart ten; instead, we had a dance.

Third Hand High is a defensive manoeuvre that is primarily aimed at promoting cards in partner's hand after they have led a suit. For example:

Partner leads the three; declarer plays the five from dummy. Assuming we are playing normal leading methods, it is safe to play the king. We do not know what exact cards partner has, but if the lead was from any kind of honour combination the king will help to set up partner's suit. The layout may be:

If we play the king, declarer has no winning option; if he ducks, we can play through the ace-jack, and if he wins we can play the suit through the next time we get on lead. Note that partner cannot lead the suit again without surrendering a trick – the lead has to come from our side.

On the lead of the three we should play the ace. If we play the ten, we surrender a needless trick if the layout is:

If we play the ten declarer can win with the jack and make a later trick with the king.

However, bridge is a complex game, and the situation might not always be so straightforward. Dummy may come down with a high card in the suit led:

When the three is played from dummy, we can play the king or the nine. We can assume that partner has at least one honour in the suit from the deuce lead.

If partner has only the ace, it doesn't matter; declarer has QJx and will always get one trick. If partner has the queen, then declarer has AJx and will always get two tricks (it is a beginner's mistake to play the ten from dummy). If partner has led from the jack, then declarer has AQx and will always get two tricks.

In all these cases, it does not matter whether we play the king or the nine. The case that does matter is the one where (playing in no-trumps) partner has led from the ace-queen or ace-jack. If so, declarer has Jxx in the first case and Qxx in the second, and will be most surprised (and grateful) to win a cheap trick. So, in general, the king is best.

Here, dummy has a disappointingly strong holding in the suit partner has led. Which card should we play after declarer plays the three?

If declarer has the queen or the ten then he will make two tricks regardless of what we do. The only thing to hope for is that partner has led from Q10xx, and in that case we should play the nine. If the nine wins, we can continue with the king, making partner happy.

Playing the nine in such a position is generally known as Finessing Against Dummy (FAD). It can be a useful part of a player's defensive arsenal, but it must be used with caution:

On the five lead, dummy playing the four, FAD suggests playing the nine, but circumstances can alter cases. This layout arose in a Tollemache qualifier many years ago; the contract was 6NT, and both declarer and dummy had shown long suits. East was my brother; aware that I might have made an attacking lead against the strong bidding he unhesitatingly played the queen. This was the killer, as I had underled the king, and had an ace to get in with. Playing the nine would have allowed the contract to make, as declarer had A10 doubleton.

Back to holiday bridge. Partner leads the nine of clubs against a contract of 1NT:



The two was played from dummy. I put in the four; I could see the QJ109, so there was no point playing the jack or the ace. As it happened, partner had led from 9876, and declarer had K53.

The inevitable happened – partner got in a couple of times, but never led clubs again, and we ended up taking one club trick where we were due three. I was duly castigated for my abject failure to play the ace at trick one – "You should have played your ace, Hamrag. Then I know what you've got."

In vain I attempted to point out that playing the ace would give declarer two tricks where she was only entitled to one, but that cut no ice. Third Hand High, I was told. I nursed my beer and ruefully contemplated a perversion of standard defensive technique whereby the only way you could signal "correctly" was to chuck a trick.

Bar bridge. 3NT. Ten of clubs led:

As declarer, I was about to play the queen from dummy when a little voice started whispering in my ear — so I played the four. East promptly went up with the king.

Third Hand High.

Congratulations

to the following LMBA members who have done well in national and international events over the last few months.



Many congratulations to **Andrew Robson** who won a bronze medal in the prestigious Rosenblum Cup, the Open teams at the World Bridge Series in Orlando last September.

The England team including **Andrew Black, David Gold, Gunnar Hallberg** and **Phil King** won a bronze medal in the European Champions Cup, bridge's equivalent of football's Champions League, in Eilat in November.

Gunnar Hallberg won the Seniors trials in December. The following players were semi-finalist in the Mixed trials – **Anita Sinclair** and **Marion Robertson** in one team and **Mike Bell, Sarah Bell, Alex Hydes** and **Heather Dhondy** in the other.

Marusa Gold, with Diana Nettleton, won the Lady Milne Pre-trials. **Gilly Cardiff** was fourth and **Susanna Gross** fifth – all qualifying for the next stage.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

The **2018 Gold Cup** was won by a team including **Anita Sinclair** (not pictured), **Zia Mahmood** and **Glyn Liggins** (right).





They beat the runners-up including **Brian** Callaghan and Heather Dhondy (left).

In the Crockford's Cup final, the de Botton team, including Janet de Botton,

Thor-Erik Hoftaniska, Tom Townsend and David Bakhshi were second and Kieran Dyke was in the third-placed team.

In the **2018 NICKO** the Young Chelsea 1 team including **Brian Callaghan** and **Heather Dhondy** lost to Tunbridge Wells in the final.





The **Premier League**, Division 1 was won by the Allfrey team, including **Andrew Robson**, **Mike Bell** (*not in picture*) and **David Gold**.

The de Botton team were a close second, having led almost throughout the event - they included **Janet de Botton**, **David Bakhshi**, **Glyn Liggins and Tom Townsend**.

The Small team, which came third, included **Ben Green** (who topped the overall Butler list) and **Peter Taylor.**

In Division 2, **Alex Hydes** was a member of the second-placed Mossop team and **Sarah Bell** was in the third team.

In Division 3, David Muller came second along with Qian Li and Trevor Mathews.

At the Summer Festival, the Four Stars A teams final was won by the team of Mark Teltscher, Zia Mahmood and Tom Townsend (with Artur Malinowski). Second equal were a team including Ben Green and another including Andrew Black, Phil King and Gunnar Hallberg.

In the B final **Kieran Dyke** was a runner-up.



In the Brighton Bowl **Heather Dhondy** was in the second-placed team and the team including **Martin Nygren**, **Margaret Nygren** and **Stefano Tommasini** was third.



The Sunday One-day Swiss Pairs was won by **Eryk Gozdowski**, playing with Tony Mutukisna.

The Play-with-the-Experts pairs was won by **Roger Morton** and **David Ould.** (Roger is pictured with the trophy, left).

In the GCH Fox Championship Pairs, **Sarah Bell** was third.

In the Point-a-Board Teams, **Lorne Anderson** was second.



At the **Scarborough Summer Congress**, the A final of the Seniors Pairs was won

by Anne Catchpole and David Schiff (right).

The C final of the multiple teams was won by Szczepan Smoczynski, Gitte Hecht Johansen, Jackie Fairclough and Graham Orsmond (below).





♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

At the Summer Seniors Congress Lorne Anderson was third in the Swiss Pairs.

At the Riviera Congress **Tim Chanter**, **Helen Wildsmith**, **Graham Pollock** and **Andrew Whittome** were third in the Swiss Teams. **Tim** and **Helen** were also second in the Northern Midweek Congress Swiss Teams.

Angus Simpson was second in the Guernsey Congress Mens Pairs.

At the Junior Teach-In, **Oscar Selby**, playing with Henry Rose, won both the Friday Duplicate and the Championship Pairs.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

At the Andalucia Congress, David Wing was second in the Mens Pairs.

In the Pivot Teams, **Gilly Cardiff** won the White Section and **Debbie Sandford** and **Gad Chadha** were second in the Green Section. **Debbie** and **Gad** were also third in the Swiss Teams

♦ ♦ ♥ ♦

At the Autumn Congress, Lorne Anderson (pictured holding the Eastbourne Bowl) was in the winning team in the Teams A final.

Gunnar Hallberg, Phil King and Andrew Black were third in the same event.



David Gold was in the winning team in the Teams C final.

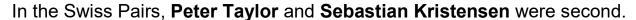
Nick Sandqvist, Nathalie Shashou and Kiril Delev were runners-up in the same event.

In the Two Stars Pairs Richard Creamer and Trevor Mathews were second.

Alex Hydes was second in the Satellite Pairs.

♦♦ **∀ ♦**

At the London Year End Congress, the Swiss Teams was won by the team including Janet de Botton, Thor-Erik Hoftaniska and Tom Townsend.



Ben Green won the Open Pairs.

In the Mixed Pairs, **Sarah Bell** was second and **Chris Duckworth** and **Brian Callaghan** were third.

Pru Bland and Amanda Sjodin were fourth in the Jack-High Pairs



The key to solving this is recognising that the symbols must be a "knight's move" away from each other. One possible solution is shown.



*	•	NT	•
NT	Y	^	*
^	*	•	NT
•	NT	Y	^

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